

Acts 2:37-41

The Real “Real Meaning” of (Water) Baptism

From Profanity to Proclamation/The Pentecostal Preaching of Peter

1: Introduction/Explanation v14-21 2: Body/Exposition v22-36

3: Conclusion/Invitation v37-41

Question 2:37

The miracle of languages had gripped the attention of many of those in Jerusalem for Pentecost, then the preaching of Peter focused on the Person/Work of Christ and was used by the Holy Spirit to convict them of their sin and their inability to earn their salvation/cover their own sin.

Answer 2:38-40

The KEY to Correctly Understanding v38

1: The crowd’s question was stated in the plural...what shall WE/must WE do?

2: The essential part of Peter’s answer was also in the plural!

The verb translated “repent” here in the original is the 1st person PLURAL form of the “metanoeo” which means to change one’s mind. IT (not the incidental call “let each [singular!] of you be baptized”) is the command which is grammatically connected to “the forgiveness of your (2nd person PLURAL pronoun) sins.”

Saving Repentance // Saving Faith (not 2 different things but 2 sides of 1 coin)

Metanoeo/metanoia “repentance” is not feeling sorry for sins (that is contrition which is emotional and will vary in each person’s heart-based on their personality and other factors). Metanoeo “repentance” is changing one’s mind (with the Holy Spirit’s enablement) about

1: sin-we’ve got it/done it and it’s “on us”

2: righteousness-we don’t have it/can’t save ourselves by our merits

3: judgment-we do have a personal/eternal moral accountability before God

As Luke wrote the Book of Acts he went out of his way to make it clear that saving repentance (changing one's mind about his/her sin, lack of +R and accountability to God) is synonymous with saving faith (pisteuo/pistis) which is active receptive trust in the sufficiency of the crucified/risen Savior to forgive our sins/make us right before God as we face our personal/moral accountability to Him.

Acts 2:38

Repent for the forgiveness of your sins

Acts 2:44

All those who had **believed**...

Acts 3:19

Repent...so that your sins may be wiped away

Acts 4:4

...many of those who had the message (to repent in 3:19) **believed**

Acts 10:43

...everyone who **believes** in Him (Christ) receives forgiveness of sins

Acts 11:17-18

...God gave them (the Gentiles Peter had spoken to in Acts 10:43) the same gift He gave us also after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ...God has granted to the Gentiles the **repentance** that leads to life!

Acts 17:30

...God is now declaring to men/women that all people everywhere should **repent**

Acts 17:34

...some people joined him and **believed**

Acts 19:4

John baptized with the baptism of **repentance**...

...telling the people to **believe** in Him...that is in Jesus

Aftermath 2:41

The ROOT/CAUSE: Salvation by Faith/Invisible (but Real)

those who received his word (repentant faith in Christ) given forgiveness of sins

The FRUIT/EFFECT: Expression of Their Salv/Visible (but only a Ritual/Rite)

3000 new believers/repent-ers (water) baptized = Jerusalem Bible Fellowship

The AIM TBFers NTK about H₂O Baptism

Background

Acts 2:38

Prescription

The Thief

Lying

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**H₂O Baptism is an Important Testimony to Salvation
But in No Way is it Part of the Terms for Receiving Salvation**

Background

Salvation is by grace through faith period in Christ period, not of works including circumcision or baptism (Ephesians 2:8-10; Titus 3:4-7; Romans 3:20-28; 4:4-5)

Acts 2:38

Actually links the forgiveness of sins to repentance/faith not baptism

All ya-all (2nd person plural) repent for the forgiveness of all ya-all's (2nd person plural) sins and then let each of you (one at a time) be water baptized (as a testimony of your faith in Christ)

Prescription (Everybody Else Calls This "Formula")

Some groups claim water baptism is legitimate only if the specific words "in the name of Jesus Christ" are used (Acts 2:38; 8:16; 10:48; 19:5) however 1: the exact words said over the baptizee are much less important than the intent of his/her heart 2: context (and Church History) assumes the priority of the wording given directly by Christ in Matt 28:19-20 before the events in Acts "baptize them in the

name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit” and realizes the descriptions in Acts are Luke using shorthand to describe the baptism of certain believers.

Thief on the Cross

This guy was a murderous threat to civil authority and innocent bystanders. He was not water baptized yet in response to his faith-active receptive trust (“Jesus remember me...”) was given immediate assurance of salvation by Jesus Himself!?!)

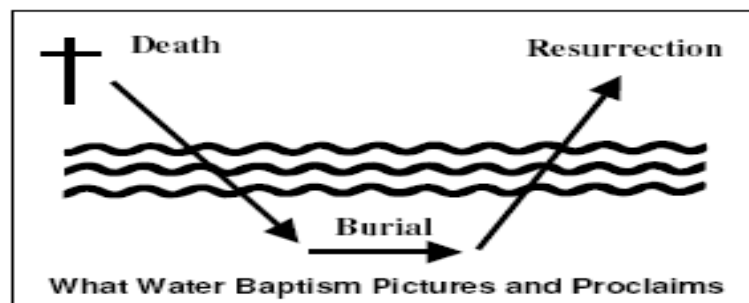
Indwelling Holy Spirit

The New Testament talks about two completely different types of “baptism”

- 1: Real/Spirit Baptism which places all believes into the Body of Christ 1 Cor 12:13
- 2: Ritual/Water Baptism which proclaims a believer’s faith in Christ 1 Cor 1:14-17

Symbol

Like a wedding ring: an important symbol but not the essential substance



Modes

Some Christian Groups: Sprinkle...Pour...Immerse

Some Christian Groups: Baptize Only Believers...Others Baptize Babies

**H₂O Baptism is an Important Testimony to Salvation
But It Is Not Part of the Terms for Receiving Salvation**

Good Works Including Submission to H₂O Baptism Are FRUIT/Effects of Salvation
But They are Not the ROOT/Cause of Salvation

“Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the Gospel” 1 Corinthians 1:17